

This document contains information
referring to Project CHALICE

CHAI-0762
Cy 1 of 5
9 October 1959 (2)

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

25X1A

SUBJECT : Current and Future Utilization of []

A. CURRENT UTILIZATION

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1. Basically the present requirements for the CHALICE program maintaining [] Edwards North Base are as follows:

a. Test facility for development and test of more advanced equipment to improve CHALICE operational capability.

b. Holding cadre for qualified maintenance personnel, pilots, P. E. technicians, etc., who can be called on at any time to augment either Field detachment at their home base or at advance staging bases, or to perform staging operations independent of Field detachments.

c. Maintain liaison with different manufacturers who are prime or sub-contractors for equipment used in conjunction with CHALICE Project.

d. Holding facility for additional aircraft that are maintained with full mission capability. These aircraft can be moved to operating sights overseas with little notice or delay.

e. Facility where a pool of project pilots can maintain their flying proficiency.

f. Maintain a capability for photo coverage of ZI and South America.

B. DISCUSSION

1. Following are discussions and specific examples relating to the operations of Edwards AFB. There are few projects at the present time in the testing phase. However, this is characteristic of the activity at Edwards. Past history has proven that testing requirements have run in cycles. During peak requirements in the past we have had so much testing to do that priorities had to be assigned in order that the most pressing tests were completed in time.

a. We currently have a J-75 equipped U-2 and a J-57 equipped U-2 at Edwards which are instrumented and used primarily as test beds.

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USAF review(s) completed.

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(1) Tests currently underway are:

1. Dual oxygen system
2. Autopilot improvement
3. 25X1D
4. Camera mount vibration
5. AC generator (J-75)

(2) Examples of some of the more outstanding tests completed in the past are:

1. Systems IV, V and VII 25X1A
2.
3. C-Camera
4. J-75 engine and retrofit program

b. From the holding cadre at Edwards, personnel are drawn to perform staging operations at Plattsburg and Eielson. Also, personnel have been drawn from this source when one of the overseas detachments has been called on to perform extended staging operations.

c. This cadre also performs maintenance of the Edwards aircraft plus providing Lockheed with a source facility to accomplish modifications and necessary work on all project U-2's.

d. At Edwards space is available and has been provided other prime contractors in order that these people may have ready access to a U-2 that is available for flight and flight test when new equipment is being tested or present equipment is being modified for increased capability.

e. Aircraft currently at Edwards can be moved to either overseas detachment for use as required.

f. Project pilots at Edwards are required to maintain proficiency in the U-2 and complete 60-2 requirements each year.

g. Project Hqs has in the past received numerous requests for photo coverage of airbases, AEC installations, proposed radar sites, etc., within the United States. Edwards Hqs in the past provided requested coverage.

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C. CONCLUSIONS:

1. The continuing requirement for Edwards, at this time and until the capability of the U-2 aircraft is replaced, is legitimate and must be maintained.

2. The problem of security if the U-2 assets are combined with another project at a new location is a major one since the newer project will be contaminated through association with the U-2.

3. The Edwards nucleus would be an excellent personnel source for staffing a new base complement.

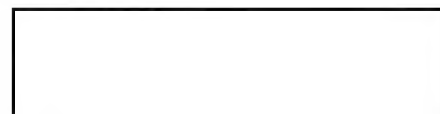
D. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. A status quo position be taken as far as combining Edwards with another project at this time.

2. Security look into the ramifications of combining the two operations to include a possible cover story.

3. That DPD/personnel study the possibility of withdrawing certain desired key personnel from Edwards and the program required to fill Edwards withdrawal vacancies.

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